

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (New) A method comprising:

_____ determining, by a video controller, whether a transmit buffer is being drained at a rate that is different from previously-specified rate; and

_____ if the transmit buffer is being drained at the different rate,

_____ recalculating, by the video controller, a target frame size for compressed video frames to maintain a target frame rate or to effect a new target frame rate, and/or

_____ adjusting, by the video controller, a threshold value associated with the transmit buffer, the threshold value associating a quantity of data stored in the transmit buffer with scheduling of video frame compression.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the determining further comprises:

_____ receiving a byte count value from a transmit buffer, the byte count value

_____ indicating a number of bytes in the transmit buffer;

_____ calculating the different rate based at least in part on the byte count value; and
_____ comparing the different rate to the previously-specified rate.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the recalculating further comprises
_____ decreasing a target frame size adjustment value, if the byte count value is zero, or
_____ increasing the target frame size adjustment value, if the byte count value is not zero,
_____ and applying the target frame size adjustment value to the target frame size.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the adjusting further comprises decreasing a threshold value adjustment value, if the byte count value is zero, or increasing the threshold value adjustment value, if the byte count value is not zero, and applying the threshold value adjustment value to the threshold value.

42. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising calculating an initial threshold value based on at least one of a next send time and a current byte rate, the next send time being an amount of time left before a video compressor is able to compress another video frame and the current byte rate being a rate at which bytes of compressed data are being read from the transmit buffer.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising calculating the next send time based at least in part on an estimated compress time for a video frame and a video capture interval for a video capture component.

44. (New) The method of claim 38, further comprising receiving, by the video controller, a video frame and, if a byte count value received from the transmit buffer is less than the threshold value, scheduling, by the video controller, compression of the video frame by a video compressor.

45. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising transferring a compressed video frame received from the video compressor to the transmit buffer.

46. (New) The method of claim 44, further comprising, if the received video frame is a B-frame, scheduling compression of the B-frame regardless of whether or not the byte count value is less than, equal to, or greater than the threshold value, the B-frame being a video frame which is predicted from a previously encoded P-frame and a P-frame currently being decoded.

47. (New) A quantitizor selector comprising:

.....
a processor; and
logic to be operated by the processor to
receive a target frame size from a video controller,
calculate a quantization parameter for a macroblock of a current video
frame to be compressed by a video compressor based at least in part on the
target frame size, and
supplying the quantization parameter to a bit rate control algorithm of the
video compressor to facilitate compression of the current video frame.

48. (New) The quantitizor selector of claim 47, wherein the logic is further to
calculate the quantization parameter based on an amount of compressed video image
data generated for macroblocks of a previous video frame, and on an amount of
compressed video image data generated for previous macroblocks of the current video
frame.

49. (New) The quantitizor selector of claim 47, wherein the logic is further to prevent
the quantization parameter from falling below two-thirds of a mean value of the
quantization parameters for previous video frame.

50. (New) A method comprising:
acquiring a compression time associated with a length of time taken to compress
a video frame of raw video image data using a processor; and
determining whether the processor is limited in its ability to compress video
image data based on whether a difference between the compression time and a target
frame period exceeds a threshold amount, the determining to facilitate adjusting of a
target frame rate based at least in part on the compression time.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising adjusting the target frame rate
based at least in part on the compression time.

52. (New) The method of claim 51, wherein said target frame rate is adjusted to a value equal to a frame rate of a video capture device divided by an integer divisor.

53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the frame rate of the video capture device is 30 frames per second and the integer divisor has a value between 1 and 30.

54. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein the threshold amount corresponds to a predetermined portion of the target frame period.

55. (New) A video image compression system comprising:

 a processor;
 a bit rate controller to compress a video frame of raw video image data using said processor; and

 a video controller coupled to said bit rate controller to determine whether the processor is limited in its ability to compress video image data based on whether a difference between a compression time for a current video frame and a target frame period exceeds a threshold amount, the determining to facilitate adjusting of a target frame rate based at least in part on the compression time.

56. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein said video controller is further to adjust said target frame rate based at least in part on the compression time.

57. (New) The system of claim 56, wherein said video controller is configured to adjust said target frame rate to a value equal to a frame rate of a video capture device divided by an integer divisor.

58. (New) The system of claim 57 wherein the frame rate of the video capture device is 30 frames per second and the integer divisor has a value between 1 and 30.

59. (New) The system of claim 55, wherein the threshold amount corresponds to a predetermined portion of the target frame period.

60. (New) The system of claim 55, further comprising a compressor including said bit rate controller, said compressor further including:

 a first queue to store the raw video image data;
 a codec coupled to the first queue to compress the raw video image data; and
 a second queue coupled to the codec to store the compressed video image data.

61. (New) The system of claim 60, wherein the processor is to control a compression rate of the codec.